



# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown  
Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, February 9, 2009  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae)  
Docket #: 2:08-cr-481-MCE

CONTACT: Lauren Horwood  
PHONE: (916) 554-2706  
[usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov](mailto:usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov)

## **FINAL KING'S BUFFET DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL ALIENS AND MAIL FRAUD**

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that United States District Judge Morrison C. England Jr. sentenced RUI TAO LIN, 53, formerly of Vallejo, Calif. and currently of Glens Falls, N.Y. on Friday, February 6, 2009, to 36 months probation, eight months home confinement, and \$49,000 in criminal fines. LIN pleaded guilty on November 14, 2008 to employing illegal aliens and mail fraud.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, LIN was the owner of King's Buffet in Vacaville, Calif. until the summer of 2008. He hired and assisted in the hiring of employees that he knew to be illegal aliens from June 2006 until September 17, 2008. The business hired at least 13 undocumented workers during this time. King's Buffet would contact an employment agency in Los Angeles to recruit Asian employees. Other employees, typically from Mexico and Central America, responded to "Help Wanted" notices placed in the business.

In order to accurately account for wage and employment taxes, California law requires employers to submit quarterly California Employment Development Department (EDD) wage reports. LIN signed EDD wage reports that did not list the undocumented aliens who had been hired and managed by him and co-defendant RU ZHU REN. King's Buffet was able to increase revenue at the business by hiding wage and tax information from the state of California. The reports were mailed to the EDD offices in Sacramento.

At sentencing, Judge England found that LIN knowingly conspired with an employment agency to hire aliens who, due to their illegal status in this country, were particularly vulnerable to the conditions under which they were to live and work, knowing he would not have been able to treat legal employees in a similar fashion. The defendant benefitted financially by not paying taxes, fees, and proper salaries. The judge strongly rebuked the defendant's contention that the victims were not taken advantage of because the conditions they found in the United States were better than those they left behind in China. Judge England equated LIN's argument with those made in the 1960's by those who were opposed to the labor movement's attempts to ban inhumane treatment of migrant farm workers.

On January 29, 2009, co-defendants RUI YANG LIN and BI XIA NI, were each sentenced to 36 months probation, a \$36,000 fine, and they forfeited the Vallejo home used by them to house some of the illegal employees. The co-defendants pleaded guilty to unlawful employment of aliens and concealing of a felony on October 23, 2008.

###